**Because we believe in protecting innocent lives, we Affirm Resolved: The United States should require universal background checks for all gun sales and transfers of ownership.**

**Contention I: Homicides**

A Universal Background check would decrease homicides for 2 reasons.

**First, by catching criminals on the spot.** [The Trace](https://www.thetrace.org/2015/09/gun-laws-work-criminals-effectiveness-research/) explains in 2015 that when criminals fail a background check, authorities are notified and the buyer can be arrested before he even leaves the gun show. For example, in Virginia, 856 criminals were arrested in just one year because they tried to buy a gun and failed a background check. Amongst them were fugitives wanted for murder.

**Second, by enforcing deterrence.** A report by [Oxford University](http://bjc.oxfordjournals.org/content/54/1/128.full?maxtoshow=&hits=20&RESULTFORMAT=1&andorexacttitle=and&fulltext=of&andorexactfulltext=and&searchid=1&FIRSTINDEX=0&sortspec=relevance&resourcetype=HWCIT#ref-66) explains that people commit crimes if they see it as a viable alternative to lawful behavior. In other words, people are more likely to commit a crime with few rules and even fewer ways to enforce them. Background checks increase the likelihood that potential criminals have a run in with law enforcement, incentivizing them not to commit crimes at all. A study by [The NCBI](https://www.thetrace.org/2015/09/gun-laws-work-criminals-effectiveness-research/) confirms this, finding that people who fail a background check are deterred and 30% less likely to commit crimes down the road.

**First Impact, preventing** **Violent Crime** Pew Research finds in 2010 that there are 11,000 homicides using firearms every year. Problematically, Arkadi Gerney of the Center for American Progress finds that states with the weakest gun laws have a level of gun violence that is more than twice as high as the states with the strongest gun laws. This is because as Hugh LaFollette of the University of the South Florida finds that the more widely available guns are, the higher the murder rate is, concluding that restricting the availability of guns is the most effective method of reducing gun homicide. Fortunately, universal background checks solve as Nicholas Dixon of Alma reducing the supply of legal guns reduces the diversion of guns to criminals, thus reducing the number of criminals who can gain access to firearms. Overall, Bindu Kalesan of Boston University finds in a study of all 50 states and by specifically isolating different variables, universal background checks reduce firearm deaths by 65%.

**Second Impact: preventing Intimate Partner Violence, or IPV**

Current legislation has too many loopholes and it allows domestic abusers to acquire firearms and increases the changes of femicide. Winnie Stachelberg of the Center for American Progress writes in 2013 that women are targets of domestic violence. She quantifies that having a gun in the house increases the risk of homicide by an intimate partner by 20 times. She concludes that the gap in the current law leads to untold numbers of domestic violence perpetrators getting easy access to guns. Thankfully, the Center for American progress quantifies in 2015 that states that require background checks for all gun sales have 46% fewer womin that are shot and killed by their intimate partners.

**Contention 2. Preventing Suicide**

**Background Checks help to prevent suicides because** **they take away the leading and most lethal cause of suicide in the US**

According to [Harvard University](https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/magazine/magazine_article/guns-suicide/), 19000 people commit suicide with a gun each year, over 3 times more than the number of soldiers that died in Iraq and Afghanistan

However, the urge to commit suicide is typically passing and reversible

[Gen Progress](http://genprogress.org/voices/2015/08/31/39334/lower-suicide-rates-associated-with-background-checks/) quantifies that suicide compulsions are typically impulsive and survivors of suicides attempts normally do not try again. Firearm suicide attempts are lethal thirty times more frequently than other methods of committing suicide. Beyond that, 90% of people that survive a suicide attempt never try again. If people contemplating suicide with guns don’t have access to guns, they are far more likely to survive.

Fortunately, Background Checks decrease suicides for 2 reasons.

First, Maura [Ewing](https://www.thetrace.org/2017/01/why-mentally-ill-have-guns-legally-background-checks/) of the Trace finds that

Licensed gun dealers are required to query the FBI’s federal background check system — The National Instant Criminal Background Check System [checks to see if a would-be customer is banned. If a buyer’s name is listed with disqualifying mental health records, the dealer refuse[s] the sale.

Second, UBCs allow for delays in purchases

The [Wall Street Journal](http://graphics.wsj.com/gun-check-explainer/) finds that the FBI may delay a firearm sale for a plethora of reasons, including a variety of mental health reasons. The WSJ continues that 9% of gun purchases were delayed up to three days.

And Nicholas Bakalar of the New York Times quantifies

After controlling for [a variety of factors] background checks were associated with a 53 percent lower gun suicide rate,

Professor Michael D. [Anestis](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-10-17/handgun-waiting-periods-actually-do-save-lives) concludes in clear terms: “When you make a highly lethal method of suicide harder to access, you’re going to lower the suicide rate”

Save innocent lives and vote pro.

## Part 3: Frontlines

### AT: Illicit Markets

### AT: Substitution

### AT: Self-Defense

### AT: Women Self Defense

#### Your argument is just empirically false.

NRCDV: (NRCDV “Talking Points,” http://www.nrcdv.org//DW)

**A woman is far more likely to be the victim** of a handgun homicide **than to use a handgun** in a justifiable homicide. Source: Violence Policy Center. (2001). A Deadly Myth: Women, Handguns, and Self-Defense. Washington, DC. • A study found that **for every time a woman use**d **a handgun to kill an intimate partner in self-defense, 83 women were murdered** by an intimate partner with a handgun. Source: Violence Policy Center. (2001). A Deadly Myth: Women, Handguns, and Self-Defense. Washington, DC. • In general, **firearms are rarely used in self-defense** by victims of violent crimes. From 2007 to 2011, crime victims engaged in self-protective behaviors that involved a firearm in **only 0.8% of the cases**. Source: Violence Policy Center. (2013, April). Firearm Justifiable Homicides and Non-Fatal Self-Defense Gun Use: An Analysis of Federal Bureau of Investigation and National Crime Victimization Survey Data. Washington, DC.